Manufacture of Silicon

414. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are supporting indigenous manufacturing of silicon mono-crystals and wafers even after the latest notification of July, 1983;

(b) whether the notification has made indigenous silicon expensive and excise duty @ 12 per cent and sales tax @ 4 per cent are adversely affecing its manufacturers;

(c) whether the notification has reduced duty on solar crystal imports also; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for Government in supporting the indigenous manufacture of silicon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is supporting indigenous manufacturing of Silicon Mono-crystals and Wafers by way of reducing import duty on input materials. Further, duty protection of 40 per cent is available for wafers for semiconductor devices. Proposals are being considered to reduce the local duties on the products.

(b) (i) The notification reducing the import duty to 0 per cene on silicon for solar photovoltaic has made the indigenous silicon material expensive compared to c.i.f. price of imported crystals and wafers.

(ii) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government is supporting the indigenous manufacture of silicon, as it is expected to be competitive, with the support measures indicated in (a) above.

Distinction between Solar and Non-solar Crystals

415. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the customs authorities have facilities to distinguish solar and non-solar crystals;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether solar crystals are being imported in the name of non-crystal and thereby Government are losing 40 per cent import duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Customs laboratories do not have in-house facilities to distinguish solar and non-solar silicon crystals.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Information is being collected.

CBI Case against former Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce

416. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI has registered a case against Shri S. K. Bahadur, former Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce for acquiring assets to the tune of forty-six lakhs disporportionate to his known sources of income;

(b) what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a special agency to look into the affairs of top officials in the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. CBI has registered a regular case on 3.12.1984 against Shri S. K. Bahadur, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce under the provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947 for possession of assets and pecuniary resources disproportionate to the knows sources of his income. His residence in New Delhi was searched on 4.12.84. A search of the

lockers in various Banks was also conducted. Cash of about Rs. 27 lakhs and jewellery of about Rs. 6 lakhs were seized. The search also brought out various other investments made by him and immovable properties acquired by him of the order of about Rs. 13 lakhs. Apart from this foreign exchange of US $2596 and £1220 were also recovered. The assets of Shri Bahadur were got attached under the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944 by an order of the District Judge, Delhi on 18.12.85.

(c) No, Sir.

Disagreement between India and Pakistan on the Issue of Foreign Basis

417. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the course of recent bilateral negotiations between India and Pakistan the latter disagreed with India's proposal for not allowing any foreign military bases in the two countries and if so, what are the arguments put forth by Pakistan in support of her stand; and

(b) when the next round of talks between the two countries is likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As the discussions are confidential and are continuing, the details cannot be divulged.

Taking up the Issue of TIV Training Camps with Bangladesh

418. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government have taken up with the Bangladesh Government the question of closing down the Tripura National Volunteer training camps in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and if so, what is the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): Yes, Sir. The Government has more than once taken up with the Bangladesh Government the question of closing down the training camps of Tripura National Volunteers in the Chittagong Hill Tracts area of Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Government have, however, consistently denied the existence of such camps.

Suggestions by Tripura Government to check TNV Infiltration

419. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a set of proposals from the Tripura Government suggesting measures to check Tripura National volunteers infiltration and for effectively fighting their violent activities; and

(b) if so, what are those proposals and what is Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Broadly, the following proposals have been received from the Government of Tripura:

(i) induction of additional para-military forces for anti-extremist operations and law and order;

(ii) strengthening of border outposts;

(iii) early construction of border roads.

The para-military forces in Tripura are being suitably augmented. A programme for strengthening the border outposts in north-east has been approved. Construction of border roads will be taken up in stages.

Undertrial Prisoners in Jails

420. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 525 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st March, 1985 and state:

(a) what is the number of undertrial prisoners in jails State-wise and Union Territory-wise during the year 1985;